IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The work of gauge conversion of Palanpur to Gandhidham, of which Palanpur to Samakhiyali is a part, has already been included in the budget 1988-99 at a cost of Rs. 318 crs. and the work would be taken up as soon as the requisite clearances have been obtained.

Gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej from Ahmedabad to Virar

1521. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken on the survey report of gauge conversion of Bharuch-Dahej route from Ahmedabad to Virar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The conversion of Bharuch-Dahej line is already included in the proposed 3rd line between Ahmedabad and Virar, the survey report is under examination in consultation with the railway and once the results of the survey are finalised, requisite clearances would be sought for taking up the work.

Yatri Seva agents for Railway bookings

1522. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Seva agents working for railway bookings, particularly in backward/rural/tribal areas of North Eastern Region, including Assam;

(b) whether representations regarding authorising more agents in this State have been received;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of applications received in this regard and the number, out of them, accorded approval; and

(e) by when the remaining applications would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) At present 18 Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are working in the North Eastern Region including Assam.

(b) to (c) Zonal railways call for applications for appointment of RTSAs as and when the need is felt by the railway. No application has been called for by Northeast Frontier Railway in the recent past for appointment of RTSAs. However, some applications have been received directly through various sources for appointment of RTSAs on which no action can be taken.

Construction of double lines in various Railway Zones

1523. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct double rail lines in various Railway Zones during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the full details thereof, Zone-wise/State-wise; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY